

comprising:

assigning links to represent the relationships in the database;
generating node identifications based upon the assigned links, wherein
the node identifications are generated so that each link represents a relationship
between two identified nodes;
storing the links and the node identifications, wherein the links and nodes
may be retrieved;
searching for the node identifications using the stored links; and
displaying node identifications, wherein the displayed node
identifications are located in the searching step.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 27-38 are allowed. Claims 22-26 and 39-98 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 5-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 27-29, 31-36 and 38 are amended for clarity and to correct minor errors. No new matter is introduced.

Entry of the amendments to the specification and claims 5-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 27-29, 31-36 is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 because the amendments do not affect the scope of the claims and are necessary to clarify the scope of protection sought. Furthermore, there is no substantial amount of work necessary by the Examiner to review and approve the changes.

The Examiner's amendment noted in paragraphs 4-6 of the Notice of Allowance

is acceptable.

Applicants disagree with the statement at page 3, paragraph 3 of the Notice of Allowance regarding the priority date for the claims under this Continuation-In-Part application. In particular, Applicants believe that many of the claim features are supported in the original disclosure.

Should the Examiner desire any further amendments or information, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 10, 1998

By: John K. Harrop
John K. Harrop,
Reg. No.: P-41,817
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Suite 200
1330 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 452-6937
Attorney for Applicants